Steve Schlasser 9/16/90
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DearSteve,

Th at I've temporarily forgotten your last name tells you what happens to a good memory that accumulates years!

As I think I told you when I packaged and sent the books I was deep in a brief in a pro se malpractise/negligence suit when you letter came and as I read it I highlighted what I'd address when I was out from under and would still have some other time pressures. One is that as soon as Lil gets out of the tub I'm taking her out to lunch and by the time we get back the Orioles game will be on. So I may not finish now.

I remember the King press conference in part because I did poorly, in part because I was not well and in part because I ad libbed it.

You ask, "I'd like to know what you have learned in the last decade." Impossible! I've gotten about a third of a million pages via FOIA litigation alone. If you come up you can see and ramble through them and other things. Ling was questions.

Re HSCA, to which I've always referred as The House Aassassins: I had nothing to do with them or their conclusions after my first few contacts. Except that John Ray asked me to appear with him so I sat at the counsel table with him and Jim Lesar and handed Jim notes that helped make a record. One was to get permission to file a statement addressing the records they were pulling on him/us by surprise for the record and then Jim asked me to do it. They delayed providing copies until past the last minute and never did provide all, so when I could delay no longer I started dictating, with Lil transcribing while I dictated. She finished in the wee hours of the morning of the last day of their hearings, when it had to be delivered, we made two copies, one for Jim and one for me, and we handed it in. It appeared in facsimile and to this day I've not read it. Could not read it in draft because I was writing it while Lil was typing it, every word. It is in Volume 8 of the Ring boosk they published.

What disturbed you of the Iran/Contra hearings should have disturbed you but what you do not mention also should have - the cowardice of the legislators. They pulled all their punches and took some awful crap, which meant the people were subjected to that same crap and were therby deceived and misled. They let North make a hero of himself and they took terrible abuse from his lawyer. In my day on the Hill that would not have been accepted and Sullivan would have been put in his place instead of converting the hearings into North's defense and an attack on the Congress and advertising for the worst bastards in the world to flock to his firm.

One could sense North's hatred but what was not widely perceived is his hatred for the system whose Constitution he claim to be devoted to upholding. He doesn't even understand it.

You refer to the Christic Institutes suit for Tony Avrigan. When I was sent a copy of the top honcho's lenghty conspiracy affidavit I wrote him immediately, and not for the first unanswered time, and encouraged him to correct it. He had it loaded with second-hand irrelevancies culled from the nuts on assassination who believe the world is flat and that all conspiracies are linked, for which they have and need no evidence. He got clobbered on that affidavit by the Florida court, which had given him wide latitude. That judge won't be as considerate to the next cause lawyer before him after that experience, I fear.

You are correct in saying that much terrible stuff had gone on in Central and South America in opposition to what is perceived as the Red scourge but it has been US policy going back to the remarkable Jefferson, who was also an imperialist. I was a Latin Americanist in intelligence in World War II. I would like to see what you have.

You say that Larry Howard claims there is more material that hasn't been released,

to which I respond by saying that no matter how much more of it you pile on, shit remains shit no matter how high it is stacked. There isn't a word of truth in anything they and White have said and nothing can make it truthful, whatever they claim not to have disclosed. I can't go into all the details but believe me, there is not a single truthful word about the assassination and very little, none that is relevant, in the so-called coincidences those nuts have gone for. Some do not even exist. Like the lie that Tippit and Roscoe were close friends who lived across the street from each other. They didn't - they didn't even live on the same street, and the Howard nuttery even includes proof of it in their press kit. How stupid can you get? And uncritical or dishonest or both?

I can't really take time to go into it. But I do tell you that the phony explanation of the Tippit killing, which you should know is impossible from unquestionable established fact, is cribbed from the novel Promises to Keep, by Bernau, the name of the alleged assassin Saul and his location are both cribbed from McDonald's fabrication, Appointment In Dallas, and because it is a complete fabrication, you know that White did crib it. The Red Bird airport bit, which is refuted by where Tippit was killed, not on the route to that little airport, comes from a dubious footnote from a dubious source in Popkin's The Second Oswald.

Thanks for the invitation to lunch but it has not been safe for me to drive out of Frederick since 1977 so I haven't and if what is impossible, suddenly it would not be unsafe, I'd be terrified by the traffic, all of which would be strange to me now. However, it is no greater a distance coming here than going there, so you are invited.

I'm sure, as you quote Larry Howard as saying, that Bud is behind the White concoction. He was friends with Popkin and with McDonald, for example, too. But Larry Howard can't avoid his personal responsibilities and his personal failings and transgressions by saying that Bud was "behind it." He and other also trusted Howard to check it out and I think he said that he did in public. If he was an investigator, to be un original, and once told Les Payne of Newsday about Mark Lane, "As an investigator he could not find pubic hair in an overworked and undercleaned whorehouse." To which Les laughed and added, "At rush hour."

No matter how well intended, those people have done and are doing awful things. They deceive and mislead trusting people and they undermine all credibility because they never have anything worthwhile and then never get it straight and because there is nothing too extreme or irrational for them and they try to publicize. Their attitude is that if it criticizes the governmebt it can't be bad. Bull!

Excuse the haste and best wishes,

Harold